WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Donate

DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

Thomas Hopcroft - Precinct 7

January 1, 2026 . 7:00 AM — 2 min read

Preferred contact method:
tom@tomhopcroft.com or www.tomhopcroft.com

What experiences and perspectives would you contribute to Town Meeting?
I'm serving in my second term on the School Committee, where I am a former chair and current liaison to the Climate Action Advisory Committee and member of the Energy Management Committee. I've been a Town Meeting member for a number of years, representing the Pond Street side of Winter Pond. Both in Town Meeting and in my career, I've spent my time bringing people together around shared values and interests to get things done, and I look forward to continuing that work.

What are two or three issues facing Winchester that you think are most important and what are your positions on them?
Educational excellence: Winchester is known for its schools, and maintaining that quality takes deliberate investment. On the School Committee, I have advocated for investment in literacy, math, tier two supports, and added capacity in popular electives, all in a fiscally responsible manner.

Subscribe

Sustainability as a fiscal strategy: Smart sustainability investments, especially those that leverage outside grants and rebates, go straight to our bottom line. I was a key driver in pushing for the Lynch School to be an all-electric, net zero building, which will save the town $750,000 over 25 years, even after recouping the full cost of purchase, maintenance, and operation. In a town with a limited tax base, we should take every opportunity to ease the burden on residents while building a healthier community for our kids and seniors.

Pedestrian and bike safety: Like many towns near Boston, Winchester faces the problem of commuters who treat our roads as shortcuts. Many of our roads still carry 1960s and 70s designs that optimize traffic throughput with wide intersections at the expense of pedestrians and kids on bikes. We need to join our neighboring communities in prioritizing resident safety over commuter convenience, and do it cost-effectively, such as requiring utilities to restore roads not to the way they were but to the way we want them to be.

What is a special challenge in your precinct that might not be faced in other precincts?

Traffic on the Pond Street corridor is dangerous. Speeds have been clocked in excess of 70 MPH, and while those are outliers, the majority of cars still travel 10 or more MPH over the limit. The road only has a sidewalk on one side, so residents on the other side take their lives in their hands crossing the street. The no heavy trucks signs disappeared about a decade ago, and large tractor trailers now cannot navigate the turns without crossing into oncoming traffic. Cut-through traffic surged around 2013 when the traffic light and turn lane were added at Route 3, Waze exploded in popularity (when acquired by Google), and the no heavy truck signs came down. Pond Street is a particular hot spot, but traffic calming and pedestrian safety is a town-wide issue that needs both local and town-wide solutions. A [illegible] start: removing the 30+ MPH signs that appear just 100 feet after [illegible] MPH unless otherwise posted" signs on most roads into town.

Subscribe

Why should voters elect you to represent them?

My interest is in making our community more welcoming, safer, accessible, and affordable. I don't have the time or temperament for drama or gamesmanship. I believe Winchester and its residents are a real gem, and that when we come together around shared interests there is very little we can't accomplish. I look forward to working with other like-minded residents to make our town more sustainable, livable, and accessible for the next generation.

–

Return to Town Meeting Candidate list.

Related

NEWS

John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

13 YEARS OF DATA, ONE SATURDAY: Takeaways from Winchester's override vote and the races that surrounded it

Winchester News reviewed precinct-level election results from every a election since 2014 — 13 ye covering turnout, ballot que Board races, School Committee contests and

Subscribe

Planning Board results — and compared them against the March 21 preliminary numbers. The 2026 results have not yet been certified by Town

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

NEWS

With override rejected, Winchester shifts from campaigning to budget planning

After Winchester voters rejected an $11.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override on Election Day, March 21, the governing question in town has shifted from persuasion to arithmetic. Select Board member Bill McGonigle, who served on the Yes for Winchester campaign, said the defeat has changed how he approaches

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

NEWS

Voters fill Town Meeting seats across Winchester; four incumbents unseated

The biggest shakeup came in Precinct 7, where two officeholders lost in an 11-person contest, matching Precinct 4 for the busiest race.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 21, 2026

Latest

Subscribe

NEWS

Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

NEIL ZOLOT | CORRESPONDENT

March 26, 2026

NEWS

John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On

Subscribe

Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe